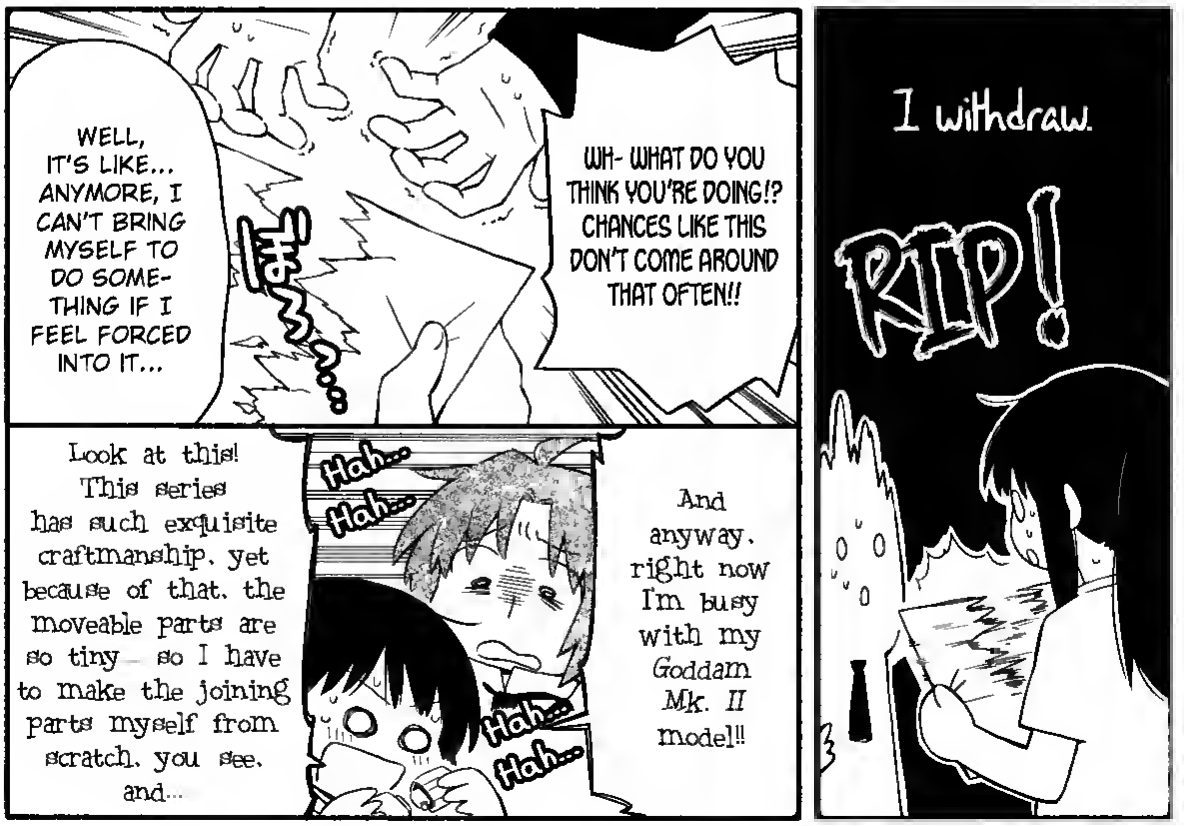
Episode 7

MIYAKO'S REALLY RUNNING ALL OVER THE PLACE OUT THERE...
What're they playing? Soccer?
YO! KUSAKABE-KUN!

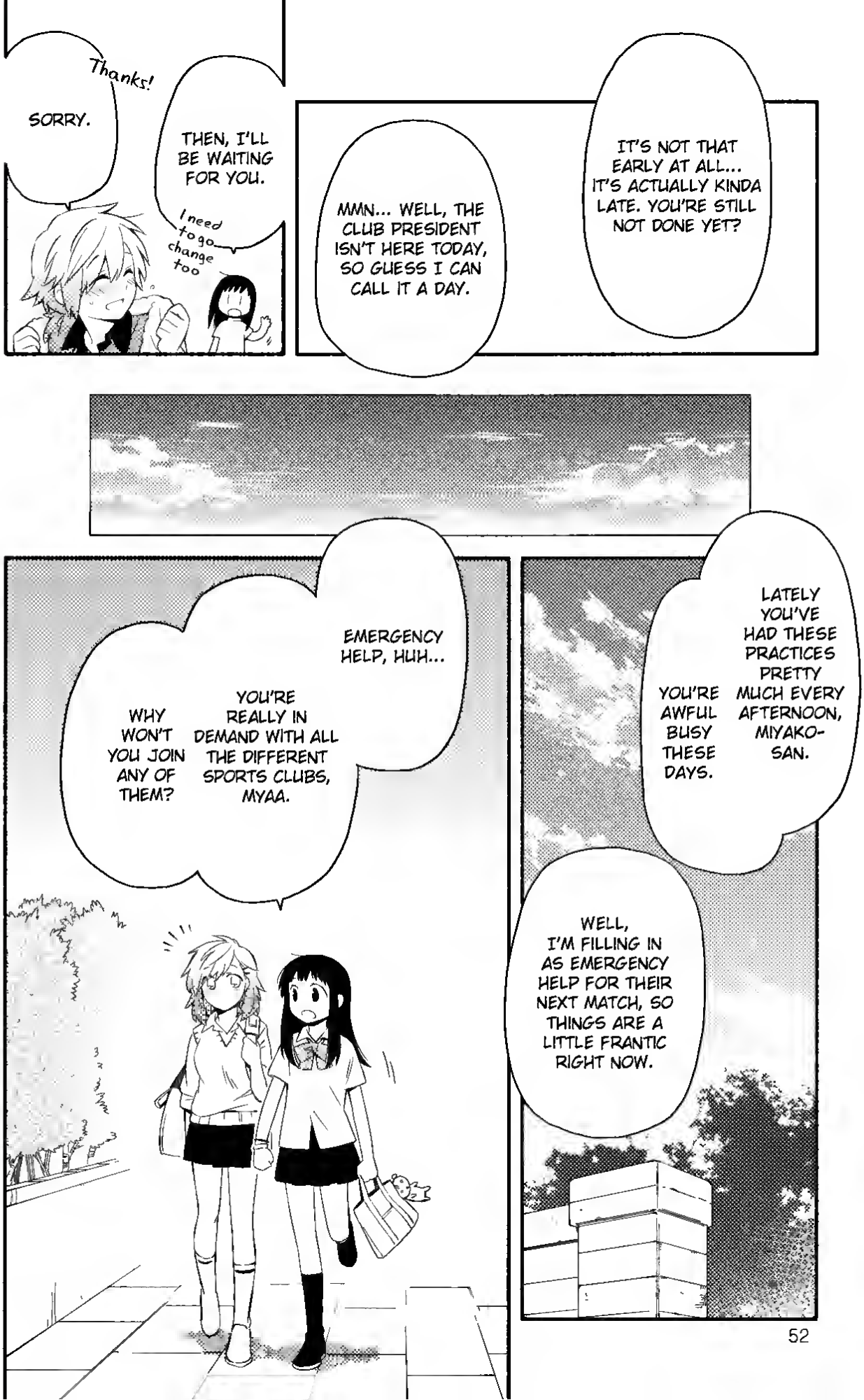
Art Club
Good thing we're on the first floor here, huh?
BOWING BEFORE THE ART CLUB'S NOBLE PRESIDENT ON YOUR OWN INITIATIVE... YOUR DECORUM IS LAUDABLE.
DON'T BE SO SILLY, PRESIDENT...
OH, AND KUSAKABE-KUN... LOOKS LIKE THE PICTURE YOU SUBMITTED FOR THAT ART CONTEST... GOT YOU THROUGH THE FIRST JUDGING ROUND.
THAT'S RATHER A PRESTIGIOUS COMPETITION, YOU KNOW. GUESS YOU'VE GOT IT IN YOU AFTER ALL...
Contest? Judging round?
Eh!?
Hah... Hoodsie-daisy!
WHAT? I HAVE NO CLUE WHAT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT!
NO CLUE!? BUT... YOU LEFT YOUR PICTURE ON THE CONTEST SUBMISSION RACK, DIDN'T YOU!?
Did I...?
Huh?

SHAKE SHAKE
YOU AND ME ARE THE ONLY ONES WHO MADE IT THROUGH! THE PRIDE OF OUR CLUB IS ALL RIDING ON US!
WELL, WHATEVER! IT'S FINE IF IT WAS AN ACCIDENT!
Your entire existence is basically one long, gradually unfolding accident!!
Sorry, President...
I must've just randomly thrown it in there to get rid of it, I guess...

DEADLINE
THEME
flip
Sounds like a total pain!!
HERE'S THE SUBMISSION DEADLINE AND THE THEME THEY'VE CHOSEN FOR THE SECOND ROUND OF JUDGING. LOOK IT OVER CAREFULLY...


WELL, IT'S LIKE... ANYMORE, I CAN'T BRING MYSELF TO DO SOME-THING IF I FEEL FORCED INTO IT...
Hah...
WH- WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING!? CHANCES LIKE THIS DON'T COME AROUND THAT OFTEN!!
I withdraw.
RIP!
Look at this! This series has such exquisite craftmanship, yet because of that, the moveable parts are so tiny— so I have to make the joining parts myself from scratch, you see, and...
Hah... Hah... Hah... Hah...
And anyway, right now I'm busy with my Goddam Mk. II model!!

Hmph! Forget her! I don't care about awards. I'm not even a member of the club in the first place!
HACK
Hasty withdrawal
YO YO! WORKING UP A NICE SWEAT?
AH, CHII-CHAN!
YOU'RE EARLY. YOU GUYS ARE DONE ALREADY?


Thanks!
SORRY.
THEN, I'LL BE WAITING FOR YOU.
I need to go change too
MMN... WELL, THE CLUB PRESIDENT ISN'T HERE TODAY, SO GUESS I CAN CALL IT A DAY.
IT'S NOT THAT EARLY AT ALL... IT'S ACTUALLY KINDA LATE. YOU'RE STILL NOT DONE YET?
EMERGENCY HELP, HUH...
YOU'RE REALLY IN DEMAND WITH ALL THE DIFFERENT SPORTS CLUBS, MYAA.
WHY WON'T YOU JOIN ANY OF THEM?
LATELY YOU'VE HAD THESE PRACTICES PRETTY MUCH EVERY AFTERNOON, MIYAKO-SAN.
YOU'RE AWFUL BUSY THESE DAYS.
WELL, I'M FILLING IN AS EMERGENCY HELP FOR THEIR NEXT MATCH, SO THINGS ARE A LITTLE FRANTIC RIGHT NOW.

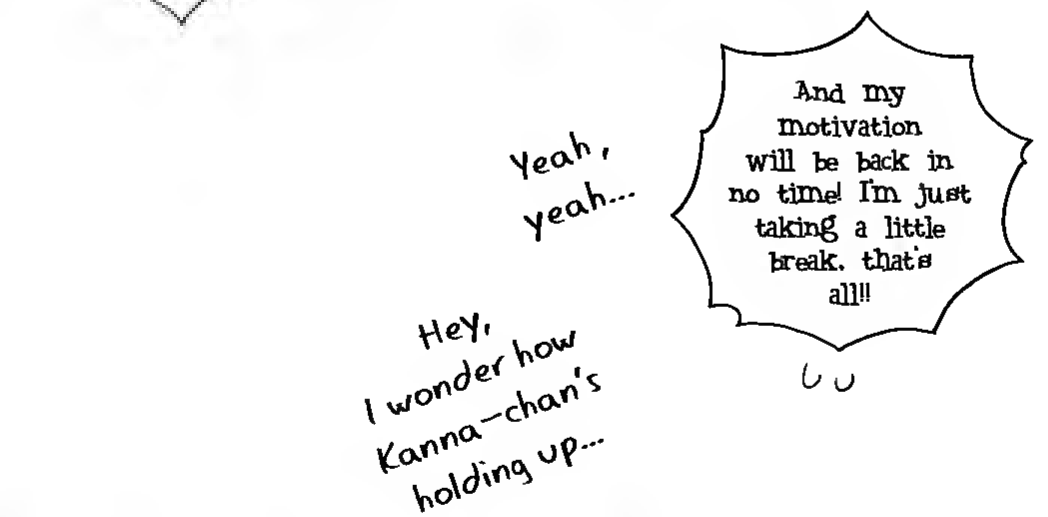
Once I got to high school, I decided I'd take my mornings nice & easy...!!!
You know why! Because I'm terrible getting up in the morning!!
I mean it!! Morning practices, early morning matches, training camps... I'd die!!
Mmn... you did seem to have a rough time of it in middle school...
BUT SAME GOES FOR YOU, CHII-CHAN... YOU HAVEN'T JOINED THE ART CLUB, RIGHT?
Though you seem to be fitting in there awfully well...
DON'T YOU WANT TO?
I MEAN, I ONLY REALLY GO THERE... BECAUSE I'VE GOT TIME TO KILL WHILE I'M WAITING FOR YOU.
The actual club activities are just a pain
IF I JOINED UP OFFICIALLY, THE PRESIDENT WOULD JUST BECOME EVEN MORE OF A PEST...
FUCK YOU SAY ?? WITH DRAW!?
Nnergh...
SHOOT... I CALLED BACK SOME UNWANTED MEMORIES...

SOMETHING WORRYING YOU?
OH, NO NO, IT'S NOTHING. REALLY.
WELL, WHATEVER IT IS YOU DECIDE TO DO...
YOU KNOW I'M ALWAYS ON YOUR SIDE.
I did !?
You just made my heart skip a beat...
Geeek!!
Miyako-chan, you're too wonderful!! Hold me!! Take me!!
Aghhh!! Gosh! Now you've made it all embarrassing!!

Ah!
THAT'S RIGHT, MY SISTER TEXTED ME TO BUY SOME MILK ON THE WAY HOME...
HMMM
SODA! BUY SOME SODA TOO!!
ISN'T THERE THAT HALF-FINISHED PEPSI STILL IN THE FRIDGE?
Yawwwn
!!?
BA-DUMP!!
OOPS! SORR...
OH! IF IT ISN'T AKKII! GOOD MORNING!

IT'S HER! THE CLUB PRESIDENT! QU... QUICK, HIDE ME BEHIND YOU!
Ack! Ack! Ack!
Huh?
Huh?
KUSAKA-BEEEEE!! GET BACK HERE!!
YADDA YADDA YADDA, ETC. ETC.
event!? Don't make it sound like something fun!!
Good morning
'Morning'
Hey, hey,
WHAT IS IT? WHAT KINDA EVENT'S GOING ON?
storm storm storm
Where is she!?
N... no, it's actually nothing like that... I just can't... really work up any motivation at all...
I GET REALLY NERVOUS BEFORE COMPETITIONS TOO... SOMETIMES I END UP NOT BEING ABLE TO HOLD MY INSTRUMENT ANYMORE...
OOH... IS IT THAT? CAN'T TAKE THE PRESSURE?
AN ART CONTEST!? THAT'S AWE-SOME! WHY AREN'T YOU SUBMITTING SOMETHING?
Sensitive one, aren't you!
GLINT!!
JUST GO THROUGH THE MOTIONS! MOTIVATION WILL COME ALONG EVENTUALLY!
HUH? WHAT? YUUYUU...? IS THAT WHAT SORTA CHARACTER YOU WERE...?
You sounded more like Kanna-chan just there.
NOW NOW NOW...
Grumble grumble
Get yourself in gear already! Enough damn grumbling!!

ALWAYS THERE TO DOTE ON HER, AREN'T YOU?
STICK
RIGHT?
MIYAKO-CHAN'S GOT A BIG HEART, BUT KEEP GOING THE WAY YOU'RE GOING AND SOONER OR LATER YOU'LL USE UP ALL HER GOOD WILL!
MUZ HEH HEH...
What are you talking about!? I totally won't! Don't worry about me!
YOU WANT SOME!?
CHIHAYA-CHAN CAN DO ANYTHING ONCE SHE SETS HER MIND TO IT, SO SHE'LL BE FINE.
Yeah! That's right!


Yeah, yeah...
And my motivation will be back in no time! I'm just taking a little break, that's all!!
Hey, I wonder how Kanna-chan's holding up...

A few days later...

Is that right...
MNN, I DUNNO... IT'S NOT JUST THE CONTEST ANYMORE, I DON'T REALLY FEEL LIKE DOING ANYTHING...
THINK I'LL HEAD TO CLUB. HOW ABOUT YOU, CHII-CHAN? WHAT'S YOUR PLAN TODAY?
I've finished the class log, so...
NOT SO BAD, REALLY... THE MATCH IS COMING UP FAST, BUT I'LL FIND A WAY TO MANAGE.
HOW'VE YOU BEEN HOLDIN' UP, MIYAKO-HAN?
ERGHH... LATELY I'VE JUST BEEN SCREWING AROUND ALL THE TIME TO GET MY MOOD UP, BUT SOMEHOW IT'S DOING THE OPPOSITE...
...IF YOU'RE THAT TIRED OF IT, YOU SHOULDN'T FEEL LIKE YOU HAVE TO FORCE YOURSELF TO GO ON.
MMMNH...
What!?
COME ON, CHIHAYA-CHAN, YOU HAVE TONS OF OTHER GOOD POINTS.
Ah!
BUT YOU KNOW! IF I QUIT DRAWING, WON'T BASICALLY MY ONLY GOOD POINT GO AWAY!?
No need to worry about that!
clatter clatter
This is trouble!!

I told you, lots & lots!
Or the way you won't, under any circumstances, do something once you've decided you don't want to... oh, and you don't ever kick or roll around in your sleep!
Why, there's... the way you'll never, ever hurry, no matter how short on time you get, or the way you always act so spoiled...
YOU MEAN IT!?
Like what, like what!
Gosh! Geez! Give me a break here! I told you, you've got tons of good points! They're going a dime a dozen!!
GA-CLACK
Like... look!
You're super cute, and you dress so stylishly, and your hair's all nice and silky smooth!
Don't sell off my good points...
WHAT THE HECK!? ARE YOU TRYING TO COMPLIMENT ME OR NOT!? YOU SADIST!!
B... but I was giving you the highest possible praise I could think of!!
I wanna use it too!!
WHERE'D YOU GET THAT SHAMPOO YOU'RE USING??
AND EVERY TIME WE SLEEP TOGETHER, I ALWAYS THINK HOW NICE YOU SMELL!!
WHERE'D I GET IT!? FROM YOUR HOUSE!
I had to use your bath again last night, remember!?
UORGHH... I'VE GOT EVEN FEWER GOOD POINTS THAN I IMAGINED...
Sigh...

HOW DID I GET LIKE THIS? I DIDN'T USED TO BE SO BAD...
IT FEELS LIKE YOU'RE GOING ON FURTHER AND FURTHER AHEAD OF ME.
SOONER OR LATER YOU REALLY WILL LEAVE ME—
CHIHAYA-CHAN!
SNATCH
SAY ANY MORE AND I'LL SERIOUSLY GET MAD.

Myaa always drives herself so hard. And I want to stay by her side forever, so...

MUSCLE-HEAD

I wanted to find something, even if just one thing, that I could put myself into completely.

But lately drawing hasn't been any fun to me at all.

Honestly, I never even liked art that much in the first place.

MY STOMACH HURTS...
Why is that the thing I chose to do?
But Myaa didn't have to get so mad either... I mean, look how great she's turned out!
How lame... snapping at her like that...
Ahhh, man...
Shoot... It's been so long since we had a fight... the effects are coming on slowly..
Errrrr nergh....
throb throb
then in the blink of an eye, she suddenly got huge...
Back in the day, she was such a little crybaby...
In more senses than one
That's right, I used to love drawing pictures back then.
Why was that...?

WHY DID YOU PICK A FIGHT WITH THE BOYS?
Take my eyes off you for a second and you end up like this
YOU'RE SO TINY, MYAA... YOU KNOW YOU'LL LOSE.
Eughh
B... BUT THEY...
HMM?
THEY WERE LAUGHING AT THE PICTURE YOU DREW, CHII-CHAN...
AHH, GEEZ... DON'T LET SOMETHING LIKE THAT GET TO YOU.
Man those guys are immature...
NO! YOU'RE GOOD!!
AND THEY'RE RIGHT ANYWAY I STINK AT DRAWING.
I DON'T CARE WHAT ANYBODY SAYS...
I LOVE THE DRAWINGS YOU MAKE, CHII-CHAN!

Wrench
The reason I got into drawing...
was Myaa!
Just because she said she liked it... how simple WAS I!?
I j... j- j- j... just remembered...!!

THERE YOU ARE!!
HUH?
WHAT'RE YOU DOING? WHAT ABOUT YOUR SOCCER PRACTICE!?
AGH!
I GOT SO FRANTIC LOOKING FOR YOU, I TOTALLY FORGOT! OH, SHOOT!

Right-o!
BREAK TIME'S OVER! I'M GONNA GET CRACKING ON THAT PICTURE!
I don't know exactly what it is I'll be doing with my future, but...
Mnnngh
Stretch
AH HA... I DON'T KNOW IF THEY'LL LIKE THAT EXCUSE.
WONDER WHAT I SHOULD TELL THEM...
MAYBE NOT...
For now, I just want...
to be by her side and see her smiling face.
BUH!!
SO WHEN I'M FINISHED, YOU BE SURE TO COME SEE IT, MYAA.
AND YOU'D BETTER TELL ME IT'S GOOD!
WH... WHAT!? IS PRAISING YOU PART OF MY CONTRACT NOW OR SOMETHING!?
Hyeeh... my stomach hurts...
It's not the same thing at all!!
At this point being late is basically the same thing as skipping out, right?
Well, I was just thinking-
WAIT... WHY ARE YOU COMING WITH ME!? HURRY UP AND GET TO SOCCER PRACTICE!
...

Eyyyeghh... having to come out and say it all formally really is super embarrassing...!!!
blush!
Huh!?
W...Well you're... really nice, and...
Then, you tell me some of my good points, Chii-chan!

Songon Tovarisch

VOLUME TWO

IT IS AS HARD TO SEE ONE'S SELF AS
TO LOOK BACKWARDS WITHOUT TURNING AROUND.

Comprehensive Tovarisch ch07

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